



Safety Sense



Motorcycle Safety

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With the weather getting warm again many riders have already started to hit roads and enjoy early spring weather. It's important to remember motorcycle safety, especially after not being on the bike for several months. Even if you don't ride you've probably noticed the increase in bikes on the roads. Whether you are a rider or not, please keep the following advice in mind when this spring.

Motorcycle Safety Tips for Riders

The key to motorcycle safety is to drive defensively, be vigilant and drive as if other drivers are unable to see you properly. While riding, don't hang out in other drivers' blind spots. Although black is often associated with motorcycles, wearing bright colors instead can improve your visibility to other drivers.

Getting into an automobile requires little more than your keys, license and regular clothes, but you need proper gear to ride a motorcycle.

Protective gear should be appropriate for

the season, including boots, gloves, a jacket and a DOT-approved helmet. Protective pants, body armor and shins guards add even more layers of

protection between you and the road.



Taking a safety course is essential for any rider, especially those new to the scene. Learning how to ride is one thing that most can handle with little practice, but learning advanced emergency evasive maneuvers can be a lifesaver one day. It may even save you money on insurance in the meantime.

NGB Equal Opportunity

Hotline number:

800-371-0617

Need to talk?

Support for sexual assault
survivors in the military

safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247



Motorcycle Safety Tips for Drivers

Since motorcycles aren't as easy to see as other vehicles, motorists must pay extra attention to the road to spot riders. Your blind spots are especially dangerous when changing lanes or merging onto a highway. If an entire semi-truck can hide in your blind spot, imagine how much easier it is for a motorcycle. One way to improve your chance of seeing riders is to adjust your mirrors properly. Still, always check your blind spots before lane changes or merges.



Riders have all the same rights and responsibilities as drivers do, including their place on the road. Road hazards, such as gravel, potholes, pavement seams and road debris, are a lot more dangerous for a rider than for a driver. Even though a motorcycle may take up only half a lane, respect that space and give them room to maneuver. When following a motorcycle, leave three or four seconds' following distance to allow the rider space to slow down and avoid obstacles safely.

Just like that old lady that forgot to cancel her turn signal five miles back, most motorcycle turn signals aren't self-canceling, so don't assume that a rider intends to turn before you pass on the other side.

Finally, it's already illegal in most states to drive distracted, including talking on the phone or texting, which can put other drivers and riders in danger. Pro tip: Just don't do it! Unfortunately, because riders don't have the same amount of protection, an accident with a distracted drivers can be fatal.

*****Take Motorcycle Safety for Free*****

The South Dakota National Guard State Safety Office will fully reimburse the cost of the South Dakota Basic Rider Training (BRT) – Basic 1 course (\$79.50 with tax) upon completion. **A completion certificate must be provided to the Safety Office before reimbursement can be made.** Below is additional information about the course along with useful links. Please contact the Safety Office with any questions.

Benefits of successful completion

- A waiver for the South Dakota riding and written tests for your motorcycling endorsement on your driver's license. You will still have to pay, possibly have an eye test and have your picture taken again. If you are from another state, please check with your local licensing bureau.
- Some insurance companies offer a discount on your insurance.
- Knowledge, skills and experience that could be the difference between avoiding or being part of an accident.

2017 Calendar of offered courses: <https://courses.southdakotasafetycouncil.org/Course/CourseCalendar>



Preserving and protecting our Army's combat resources
U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER
FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Safety Collaboration

On behalf of BG Farnsworth, HQDA, Director of Army Safety and USACRC Commanding General and myself, we applaud your efforts and what you do every day for Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families.

As spring approaches, the Army continues an overall, downward trend in this fiscal year's accidental fatalities with 35 year-to-date, compared to 42 for the same period in FY 2016. There is a marked decrease in aviation fatalities, which are down 75%. Other areas with improvements are personnel injury-other accidents, down 33%, and weapons and explosives accidents, which are down 100%. Areas of concern are private motor vehicle pedestrian accidents, which are up 250% (7 fatalities in FY 2017, YTD compared to 4 in all of FY 2016), and private motor vehicle sedan accidents with 11 fatalities YTD, compared to 9 for the same period in FY 2016.

While we're moving in the right direction of mitigating risk and reducing accidental losses, we're still falling short. Through engaged leadership, coupled with your knowledge and compassion, we will continue to make a difference in our Soldiers lives, both on and off duty.

This year's Safety and Occupational Health 2017 U.S. Army Senior Safety and Occupational Health Professional Development Summit, is scheduled for 3-7 April at the MCoE, Fort Benning, Georgia. This annual event hosted by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center provides a venue for senior safety and occupational health professionals across the Army Commands to receive critical career program and leadership training. The theme for this symposium is "Managing Warfighter Risk". We were honored to have the Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey to be a keynote speaker at last year's event. This year the USACRC will have the honor of having CSM Scott C. Schroeder Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Forces Command to be a keynote speaker. Here's a link about last's year's summit for your review and to share with your Safety Personnel.

https://www.army.mil/article/171863/synchronizing_safety_and_occupational_health_headlines_summit

Through selfless service, the love for Soldiers and our Nation, we accept the fact that the Army has plans with a vision for us whether we are expecting them or not. Such is the case for me as I depart the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center and assume responsibility at the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps & School at Fort Lee, Virginia later this month. It's been an immense privilege to serve you during my time here and it's my hope that safety consciousness continues to resonate with you during your endeavors.

I'll transfer the reins to CSM Ernest Bowen who's coming from the 157th Infantry Brigade at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. CSM Bowen brings a wealth of experience to the USACRC and I'm looking forward to the safety initiatives and wisdom that he will undoubtedly share across our great Army. He'll continue these monthly messages and like me, he's open to ideas and wants to know what great lessons learned are out there, so feel free to reach out.

I don't believe in goodbyes, especially in America's Great Army. So, I look forward to our future engagements and dialogues. If you need anything, don't hesitate to reach out and please help CSM Bowen feel as welcome as I did when I first came on board.

Readiness Through Safety

Terry D. Burton
Command Sergeant Major